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FIXED-PRICE SALE SYSTEM EXPLAINED

Farm workers' cooperatives, cooperative farms on agricultural cooperatives, and their members have special preference under the system of sale at fixed prices. A recent order of the federal government guarantees credit and special supply to the rural cooperatives. Small and middle farmers are allowed to participate in the system, but rich farmers are excluded. This is essential at the present stage of Yugoslav agricultural development to strengthen the system of compulsory crop purchases, to develop farm workers' cooperatives, and to bind the small and middle farmers more closely to the state economic sector through contracts and other means.

The srez people's councils, upon the recommendation of local people's councils, will decide which landowners are small and middle, and how much of his farm produce each farmer may sell at fixed prices, the amount depending upon how much salable surplus he has. This guarantees that the farmer will be allowed to buy at fixed prices only as much consumer goods as he actually needs.

Between 1 April 1949 and 1 April 1950, small and middle farmers may sell not more than 6,500 dinars' worth of farm produce at fixed prices. Within this limitation, the amount that an individual landowner may sell at fixed prices will be determined on the basis of an appraisal and recommendation by the local people's council on the amount of salable surplus he has, up to a limit of 6,500 dinars. The appraisal must be very accurate, as a farmer who is authorized to sell more than the amount of his surplus may be deprived of his right to sell at fixed prices. Money given to him may be given to a landowner personally or to establish his freedom of fixed prices; or to a farmer whose surplus exceed his maximum authorization.

To prevent individuals from selling farm produce in excess of those produced by individual farmers, from selling farm products in addition of those authorized, small and middle farmers are issued rationing cards. An agreement specifies the proper number of coupons to be stopped when a farmer sells produce at fixed prices. The selling

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cards contain 500 or 1,000 dinars' worth of coupons. The cards consist of an identification card and a sheet of coupons of various denominations. The identification card shows data on the farmer to whom it is issued, his town and srez, and is signed by a member of the local people's council. When produce is sold, the crop-purchase enterprise detaches the proper number of coupons and gives the farmer cash and coupons with which he may purchase goods at the lower uniform prices. The local people's council issues the selling cards on the basis of a register approved by the srez people's council.

Because of the great importance of the selling cards for the proper functioning of the fixed-price sale system, penalties will be exacted if a people's council official issues a selling card to a person not entitled to it or issues more coupons than a person is entitled to; if the crop-purchase agent buys produce at fixed prices from a farmer who has no selling card or whose name does not appear on the card; if he does not collect as many coupons from the selling cards as the number of coupons he issued for the purchase of goods; or if a farmer gives his selling card to another farmer.

Individual farmers may sell produce in excess of the authorized maximum when the purchase of individual manufactured items at fixed prices is permitted only upon the delivery of specified agricultural products. Caustic soda, for example, is sold only when lard is delivered. In such transactions, farmers need only show their selling cards to the crop-purchase enterprise as proof that they are entitled to sell their produce at fixed prices. No coupons will be collected.

In the case of products of particular importance to the state, such as industrial plants, even rich farmers may be authorized to sell them at fixed prices.

Small and middle farmers who do not produce grain or who produce insufficient quantities for their own use may sell farm produce in excess of the authorized maximum in order to buy enough grain for their needs at the lower uniform prices.

The order provides that contracts for the crop purchase of industrial plants that were concluded before the order was issued will remain in effect until further notice. This means that the authorized maximums do not apply to producers of industrial plants. Supplementary instructions will be issued as to how much manufactured goods and how much grain such growers may buy. The terms for producers of industrial plants will be somewhat more favorable. Particular attention will be paid to supplying them with grain in localities where grain ordinarily is not grown or is grown in insufficient quantity.

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